United Nations E/2010/NGO/86

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2010

Original: English

Substantive session of 2010
New York, 28 June-22 July 2010
Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*
High-level segment: annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women

Statement submitted by Presbyterian Church USA and World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

10-36765 (E) 180610

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Statement

Partners for change: faith-based engagement in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women

We affirm gender equality and empowerment of women as critical components of sustainable development practices, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the realization of internationally agreed goals and commitments to women's human rights.

Despite commitments and goals which highlight gender equality and empowerment of women, defended in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international mechanisms, the world is far from celebrating universal women's empowerment and equality.

We affirm the Christian principle that women and men have been created equally, with the dignity and worth of human beings created in the image of God. Recognizing that progress requires action across institutions and global sectors, we remain committed to seeking justice and partnering for change that ensures the transformation of institutions and the achievement of internationally agreed goals for women's advancement.

We recommend that:

- Resources be mobilized at all levels to integrate the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action into United Nations programmes and resolutions.
- Implementation, evaluation and measurement of progress towards the Beijing Platform for Action be integrated into the mandate of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development.
- Women be included in decision-making and leadership positions at all levels of local, national and international political life and in decisions regarding development policies and programmes in efforts to reach Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015.
- Women be given equal access to financial credit, credit for microenterprises and the necessary resources to participate fully in the economic sector, with a particular emphasis on reducing the disproportionate impact of the global financial and economic crisis on women, girls and other vulnerable populations.
- Women's participation in political life be encouraged through literacy in human rights and the enforcement of laws that protect women and promote their empowerment.
- Contributions of women to international peace and security efforts be recognized and encouraged, and international commitments to end violence against women, particularly in conflict areas, as emphasized in Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), be fully implemented.
- Resources be mobilized at the national and international levels to end cultural and legal practices that grant perpetrators of violence against women impunity.